

panies are not throughout the year, dependant upon the general travel of the country for support. At seasons when the local business is of the most consequence to them, their arrangements must necessarily be adapted to its accommodation, although these should be to the prejudice of the traveller.

The rail road and steamboat route by Norfolk and Baltimore, is equally incapable of maintaining a competition with that by the Eastern Shore as it respects certainty, time or speed, the distance by water and the total length of the route being greater than that of the Eastern Shore by 46 miles. The difference resulting from inferior speed upon part of it, (for the water passage in the one case is 197 and the other but 85 miles) will increase it still more. To these reasons may be added the occasional suspension of navigation upon the upper parts of the bay during the winter months, and the uncertainty at all seasons of arriving at Baltimore in season.

The distance from Weldon by Norfolk and the Eastern Shore rail road to its union with the Baltimore and Wilmington rail road will be 280 miles, of which, about 85 will be by water. The distance from Weldon to Norfolk, is 77 miles. By placing the steamboats on the night line, the traveller may be allowed time for repose, so that he can resume his journey refreshed. There being but two companies upon the route between Roanoke and Elkton, (the steamboats are the property of the Eastern Shore Company) and the accommodation of the travel between the North and South, being the leading object of both of them, their co operation may be more reasonably anticipated.

The road from Weldon to Norfolk, is very straight, and the grades are low—in these particulars it will nearly equal the road on the opposite side of the bay. The speed therefore that can be maintained through the whole route will be of great consequence, not only to the traveller, but the merchant, in conveying intelligence; and to the General Government, in transporting the mail.

Situated as the Southwestern terminus of the line is, in a climate comparatively mild, the navigation of the waters near it is rarely closed, and never certainly so much obstructed by ice as to present serious difficulties in keeping it free. Tangier sound and the neighbouring rivers,